

Breanna Elley—placed in the top twenty, and Seth Wallace finishing in the top ten, placing third in the nation.

The continued success of Mr. Deaver and his DECA students is a testament to the fact young Nebraskans represent a truly valuable resource. I applaud their achievements and wish them the best next year.

PROVIDING FOR COMPENSATION  
TO STATES INCARCERATING UN-  
DOCUMENTED ALIENS

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2008*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1512, to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for compensation to States incarcerating undocumented aliens charged with a felony or two or more misdemeanors, introduced by my distinguished colleague from California, Representative LINDA SÁNCHEZ, of which I am a proud cosponsor.

Mr. Speaker, for over a decade, the States have gone through difficult budgetary times and sometimes the federal government has not done enough to pay its fair share when the States have partnered with it. I am glad H.R. 1512 is a step in the right direction.

The State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) was created in 1994 to reimburse States and localities for the arrest, incarceration, and transportation costs associated with criminal aliens. Currently States and localities are only able to be reimbursed for incarcerating criminal aliens who are “convicted of a felony or two or more misdemeanors” and be incarcerated for at least four consecutive days.

In 2003, the Department of Justice (DOJ) reinterpreted the SCAAP statute in a way that caused a drastic drop in every State’s reimbursement. Now States no longer receive reimbursement unless (1) the criminal alien is convicted of a felony or two misdemeanors; and (2) the arrest and conviction occurred in the same fiscal year.

I commend Congresswoman SÁNCHEZ for introducing H.R. 1512, a bipartisan bill which exemplifies the spirit in which we should approach many challenges in the immigration field. H.R. 1512 would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act so that States and localities can be reimbursed for the cost of incarcerating aliens who are either “charged with or convicted” of a felony or two misdemeanors regardless of the fiscal year of the incarceration and conviction.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that H.R. 1512 has been endorsed by the National Sheriffs’ Association and the U.S./Mexico Coalition of Border Counties.

The SCAAP program is administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), which is part of DOJ’s Office of Justice Programs (OJP). The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) aids BJA in administering the program.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1512 is an important step toward fulfilling our federal government’s obli-

gations to States, many experiencing budgetary pressures, including when partnering with the Federal Government in the immigration field. I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

COMMEMORATING THE RENOVATION  
OF THE MONCLOVA, OHIO  
POST OFFICE BUILDING

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 7, 2008*

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, this month marks a celebration in the community of Monclova, Ohio. After four years, hundreds of volunteer hours given by dozens of volunteers, and many donations and financial contributions from generous sponsors, the citizens of Monclova will dedicate a reconstructed and renovated historical Post Office. Bill Strayer and Mary Kay and Connie Nuhfer of the Monclova Historical Society prepared a wonderfully descriptive history of the building and the effort to restore it, which I am pleased to submit for the RECORD.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MONCLOVA OLD POST  
OFFICE

By the late 1800s and early 1900s, Monclova Township boasted a variety store, a mercantile, a drugstore and a barbershop, as well as wagon makers, blacksmiths, and a lyceum. Home mail delivery was also provided to area residents following the Rural Free Delivery legislation enacted by Congress. Ira Hinkle became the first mail carrier in the Township, using a horse and covered wagon on good weather days and riding the horse in snowy weather. Claire Metzger became the first Postmistress of Monclova Township on March 19, 1915; she served for 41 years before retiring on October 31, 1956. Prior to Miss Metzger becoming Postmistress, the Trapp Mercantile Store housed the Monclova Post Office. Claire, however, had a cement block building erected on property owned by her father, John Metzger, creating the first stand-alone post office in the Township. This one room building was unique in that it was the only post office in the country to have a piano; Claire would often entertain her customers by playing songs on it. The post office continued to operate until December of 1961, when the current Monclova Post Office opened on the corner of Monclova and Waterville-Monclova Roads.

Within a few years after its creation, the Monclova Historical Foundation was approached by the Kerschmer family to see if its members would like to have the old Post Office building that now sat empty. The Kerschmers, who owned the land where the old post office was located, requested that the building be moved from its current site and relocated on the Community Center property. At that time, the Foundation did not have the resources to take on the property and so the project was put on hold.

In 2004, however, the Foundation was approached by retired Master Carpenter and builder Ray Parker. He and friend Peggy Brown were willing to take on the project of saving and restoring the old building. In June 2004, a letter was signed granting the Foundation ownership of the old Monclova Post Office with the condition that it be removed from the Kerschmer property. In early fall 2004, a meeting with Ray Parker, Peggy

Brown, Bill Strayer, then president of the Foundation, and Tom Meyer, architect and friend of Bill’s, met to discuss what had to be done to move the building. Ray made detailed drawings of the building including noting where each block was located. There were four different style blocks used in the Post Office and Ray wanted to be sure it would be reconstructed exactly as it was before it was taken down.

A few weeks later a group of volunteers took apart the building block by block. The blocks themselves were the only part of the building that were salvageable, but small pieces of trim were saved to be used as a pattern for creating new trim work. The blocks were stored behind the Community Center until plans, prints, permits and funds were ready. In late summer 2005, reconstruction of the old Post Office began and the building was under roof by winter. In early 2006, Ray Parker died of cancer. Peggy, along with Bill and many other volunteers, have worked to complete the building the way Ray would have wanted. Over seventy volunteers have put in hundred of hours of work on the project and contributors have given both large and small donations in order to make this restoration possible. On May 24, 2008, the building will be officially dedicated; it will then be used as a museum for area schoolchildren and visitors to explore and to learn about the history of this great community.

CONGRATULATING FORT A.P. HILL

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 7, 2008*

Mr. WITTMAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize Fort A.P. Hill as the winner of the 2008 Commander in Chief’s Annual Award for Installation Excellence and am honored to represent the men and women of Fort A.P. Hill. The Commander in Chief’s Annual Award for Installation Excellence recognizes outstanding and innovative efforts of those who operate and maintain U.S. military installations, and A.P. Hill was selected based on their exemplary support of Department of Defense missions.

Excellent military installations enable better mission performance and enhance the quality of life for military men, women and families. Each winning installation succeeded in providing excellent working, housing and recreational conditions.

To compete for the award, installations completed detailed organizational self-assessment packages answering questions posed in the Army Performance Improvement Criteria. Top installations received a week-long site visit by a team of evaluators, and a final, detailed scoring assessment by a senior panel of judges determined the top three installations.

The assessment was a thorough study of how business processes are designed and deployed, and how the installation fares in its business results across a variety of performance areas. I am honored to recognize the accomplishments of Fort A.P. Hill as the installation continues to sharpen the combat edge of America’s Defense Forces, and I am proud A.P. Hill calls the First Congressional District home.